or Health that includes many different organizations, including the Department of Health. We have been involved in helping the coalition try to pass the cigarette excise tax initiative. We are also currently engaged in supporting the protest initiative against the Philip Morris Tobacco Company's "Bill of Rights Tour". We also participate with the American Cancer Society and American Lung Association in our Smoke Free Class of 2000 Project. This program is targeted toward the schools and the students graduating in the year 2000.

The American Heart Association of Colorado is very supportive of the Assist Program. Cigarette smoking is one of the three major risk factors of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular diseases kill more people each year than all other causes of death combined. The Association would be willing to provide meeting space for the coalition members on a periodic basis. Additional support would need to be considered by our Program Committee and volunteer leadership.

As I mentioned to you earlier, we are supportive of this initiative and are anxious to see the program supported throughout the state of Colorado. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any additional information at this time.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Brennan
Executive Director

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